

U.S. Appln. No. 10/816,038
Reply to Office Action dated March 10, 2006

PATENT
450100-05008

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS.

Claims 1-5 are pending. Claims 1 and 3-5 are independent. Claims 1-5 are hereby amended. No new matter has been introduced. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

The Specification, which was objected to, has been amended thereby obviating the objection.

Claim 2, which was objected to for minor informalities, has been amended thereby obviating the objection.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,860,217 to Sasaki, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Sasaki").

U.S. Appln. No. 10/816,038
Reply to Office Action dated March 10, 2006

PATENT
450100-05008

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

"A special effect device...comprising:

address signal generating means for generating a readout address signal for said picture signals stored in said frame buffer so that, by rupturing a picture portion within an area at an optional position of said picture, defined by a circle having a radius of an optional size, with the center of the circle as a rupturing point, a folded figure will be obtained which has the circumference of said circle as a topological boundary,

wherein said address signal generating means transforms a coordinate system of said picture to a rectangular coordinate system and the rectangular system is then transformed to a polar coordinate system." (emphasis added)

As understood by Applicant, Sasaki relates to a method and system for effecting a transformation of a video image from an original image on a TV screen applicable, for example, to a system for producing a special visual effect on a television screen in a television broadcasting station.

Applicant respectfully submits that Sasaki does not teach or suggest the above features of claim 1. Specifically, Sasaki not disclose a special effect device comprising an address signal generating means for generating a readout address signal for said picture signals stored in said frame buffer so that, by rupturing a picture portion within an area at an optional position of said picture, defined by a circle having a radius of an optional size, with the center of the circle as a rupturing point, a folded figure will be obtained which has the circumference of said circle as a topological boundary, wherein said address signal generating means transforms a coordinate system of said picture to a rectangular coordinate system and the rectangular system is then transformed to a polar coordinate system, as recited in independent claim 1.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

U.S. Appln. No. 10/816,038
Reply to Office Action dated March 10, 2006

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

PATENT
450100-05008

For reasons similar to, or somewhat similar to, those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 3-5 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the independent claims, discussed above, and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP
Attorneys for Applicant

By 

Thomas F. Presson
Reg. No. 41,442
(212) 588-0800